

CITY CODE
City of
AURORA, COLORADO

Codified through
Ordinance No. 2013-38, enacted October 28, 2013.
(Supp. No. 55)

The listing below includes all legislation received by Municipal Code since the last update (printed or electronic) to the Code of Ordinances. This legislation has been enacted, but has not yet been codified.

Legislation	Date	Description
No additional legislation has been received since the last update. The Code of Ordinances is up to date as indicated by the banner above.		

Sec. 14-13. Humane care.

(a)

Generally. Each animal shall be adequately supervised by the owner and cared for so as to prevent injury, diseases or neglect. Sick or injured animals shall be provided with veterinary care and cared for in a manner that provides for the health and comfort of the animal at all times.

(b)

Standards. Every owner, agent, lessee, tenant or occupant of any premises where any animal is kept shall ensure all equipment, buildings and facilities are constructed and maintained to not less than the following standards:

(1)

Structural strength. Housing facilities or shelters for animals shall be structurally sound and able to contain the animals and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, adverse weather, safety or health hazards.

(2)

Water. Adequate and potable water shall be available to the animals at all times unless veterinary orders indicate to the contrary. Watering receptacles shall be kept clean.

(3)

Electric power. Reliable and adequate electric power shall be provided if required for lighting or heating.

(4)

Storage. Supplies of feed and bedding shall be stored and protected against infestation or contamination by vermin or decaying organic matter.

- (5) *Cleaning of pet shops, kennels, cages, facilities and surrounding premises.* In pet shops, kennels, cages, facilities and surrounding premises, waste material shall be removed as often as necessary to prevent contamination and to reduce disease, hazards and odors.
- (6) *Ventilation.* Cages, corrals, kennels, stables, stalls, facilities and shelters shall be ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Animals shall be provided with fresh air, either by means of windows, doors or vents, which shall be ventilated so as to minimize draft, odors and moisture condensation.
- (7) *Lighting.* Where lighting is required, such lighting shall provide uniformly distributed illumination of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning during inspections or working periods.
- (8) *Heating.* The ambient temperature shall be consistent with the health requirements of the animals.
- (9) *Cages, corrals, kennels, stables, stalls or any other enclosures.* Cages or enclosures shall be structurally sound to contain the animal and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animal from injury and any adverse conditions. Enclosures shall provide sufficient space to meet the conditions and size of the animal and allow the animal to turn about freely and to easily stand and lie in a comfortable, normal position.
- (10) *Housekeeping.* All facilities shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and disease and to facilitate good animal husbandry, and the owner shall keep surrounding areas free of accumulations of trash, debris and waste.
- (11) *Feeding.* Each animal shall be fed food of a sufficient quantity and of good nutritive quality to meet the normal daily requirements according to size and needs of the animal. Food receptacles shall be located for easy accessibility to the animal and to minimize contamination from trash, debris and waste.
- (12) *Fencing.* All fencing requirements shall comply with [chapter 146](#) of this Code.

(Code 1979, § 7-14)

Sec. 14-14. Trapping. 

(a) *Illegal traps.* It shall be unlawful to use or set, or cause to be used or set, a leghold, snare, instant kill, body gripping trap or such other trap which can cause pain, injury or suffering for the purpose of trapping any feral cat or household pet.

(b) *Trapping permits.* Except as provided in subsection (c), it shall be unlawful for any person to use or set or cause to be used or set any trap, for the purpose of trapping any feral cat or household pet without first obtaining a permit. Such permit shall be issued by the animal care division of the city for a specified address and period of time not to exceed one year and shall limit and specify the type and number of traps which may be utilized. Such permit may be denied or revoked if the applicant, or any member of the applicant's household has been convicted of any violation relating to cruelty or mistreatment of animals within one year preceding the date of the application for the permit, or during the term of permit.

(c) *Exceptions.* No permit, as described in subsection (b), shall be required to trap any feral cat or household pet if such trapping is being done inside the individual's residence or place of business. This exception shall not apply to any attached or detached garage or storage structure which is being utilized in connection with a residential use.

(d) *Inspection of traps.* It shall be unlawful for any person, who uses to sets, or causes to be used or set, any trap which is designed to not harm the animal, to fail, refuse, or neglect to check the trap on a timely basis to prevent endangering the life or health of any animal which is captured by such trap.

(Ord. No. 2001-55, § 2, 8-20-2001)

Sec. 14-15. Beekeeping.

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have meanings ascribed to them in this section:

- (1) Apiary shall mean a place where bee colonies are kept.
- (2) Bee shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Mellifera* Species.
- (3) Colony shall mean a hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.
- (4)

Hive shall mean a structure intended for the housing of a bee colony.

(5)

Tract shall mean a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

(b)

Hives. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable type hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

(c)

Setback. All hives shall be located at least five feet from any adjoining property with the back of the hive facing the nearest adjoining property.

(d)

Fencing of flyways. In each instance in which any colony is situated within 25 feet of a developed public or private property line of the tract upon which the apiary is situated, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall or fence parallel to the property line and extending ten feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

(e)

Water. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

(f)

Maintenance. Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

(g)

Queens. In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to re-queen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

(h)

Colony densities.

(1)

It shall be unlawful to keep more than the following number of colonies on any tract within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the tract on which the apiary is situated:

- a. One-quarter acre or less tract size—Two colonies;
- b. More than one-quarter acre but less than one-half acre tract size—Four colonies;
- c. One-half acre or more but less than one acre tract size—Six colonies;
- d. One acre or larger tract size—Eight colonies;
- e. Regardless of tract size, where all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all property lines of the tract on which the apiary is situated, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.

(2)

For each two colonies authorized under colony densities, subsection (h)(1) above, there may be maintained upon the same tract one nucleus colony in a hive structure not exceeding one standard 9 5/8 inch depth ten frame hive body with no supers attached as required from time to time for management of swarms. Each such nucleus colony shall be disposed of or combined with an authorized colony within 30 days after the date it is acquired.

(i)

Prohibited. The keeping by any person of bee colonies in the city not in strict compliance with this section is prohibited. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any swarm of bees, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned by the beekeeper, is unlawful and may be summarily destroyed or removed from the city by the city manager or designee.

(Ord. No. 2003-51, § 1, 8-11-2003)